

Sola Scriptura

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Sola Scriptura – Review (1 of 3)

- Martin Luther
 - Backbone of the Reformation: 5 Solas

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone	What do we go for knowledge of God?
Sola Fide – Faith Alone	How are we saved?
Sola Gratia – Grace Alone	Free will, or no choice?
Solus Christus – Christ Alone	Are other beliefs acceptable to God?
Soli Deo Gloria – God’s Glory Alone	What is the meaning of life? Anything

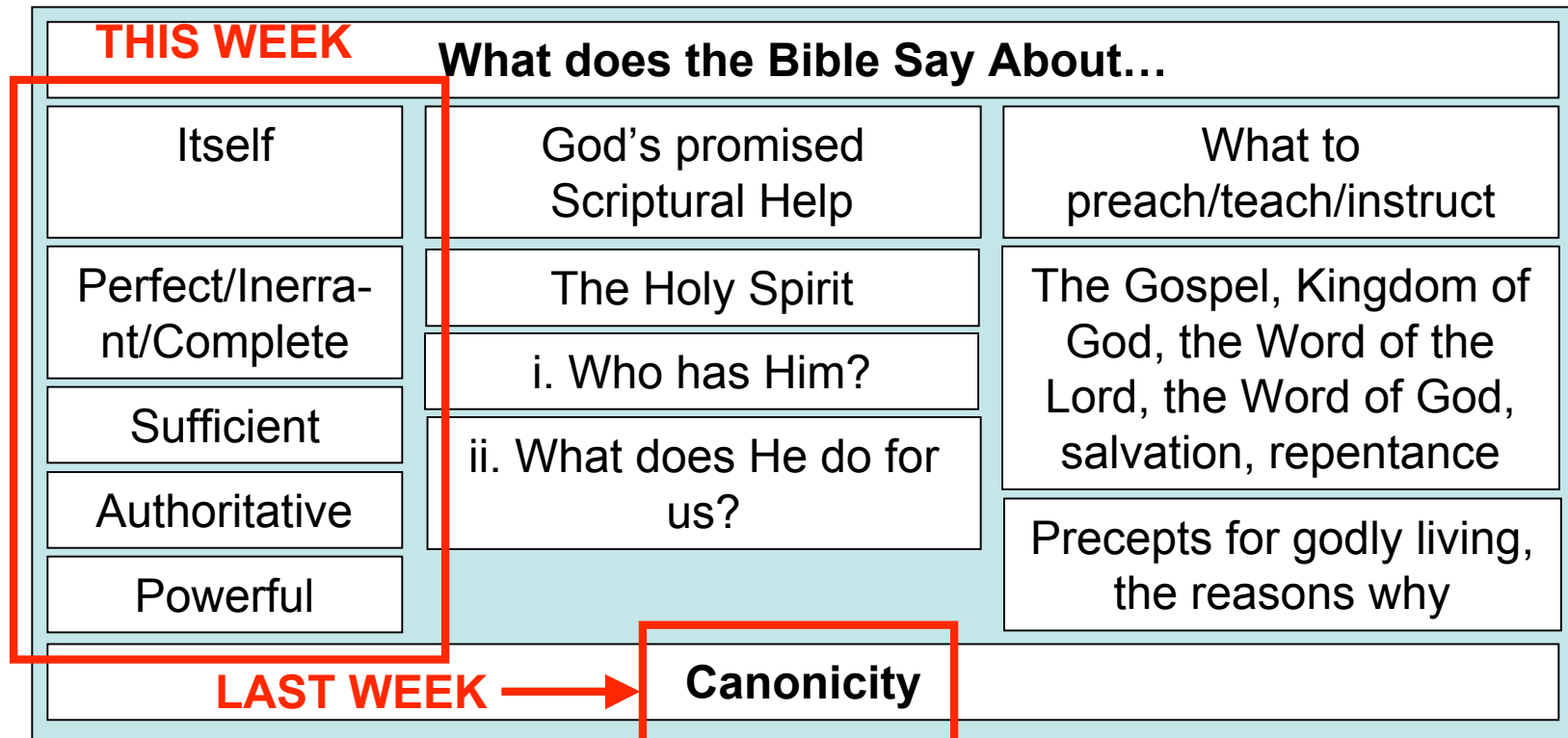
- Sola Scriptura is the doctrine of The Word, really. The concept of Sola Scriptura (in basic language) states that the Bible is God’s holy, perfect, sufficient, and complete Word that anybody can read since the Holy Spirit dwells in all true believers and helps them to sufficiently understand the text. Not only is no other text required, but the practice of including other texts is condemned. **(+pg 270)**

Sola Scriptura – Review (2 of 3)

- Why this is important
 - All groups that claim to be a denomination of Christianity (a very diverse collection) HAVE to have some stance on what the Bible is.
 - According to Scripture we are imperfect and can not add anything to Scripture, so we either believe it and go by it alone or don't go by it at all. If so, all doctrinal conflicts need to be held to it (2 Cor 10:3-6)
 - People grab on to this topic for many reasons – hopefully this series equips you all with God's truth to do His work!
 - Nothing effects our lives (and how we live them) more than our view of God – and the Biblical view of God is different than all others.
- How do we go about determining whether SS is right?
 - Either way, *by its very definition*, the Bible can be counted on to either prove or disprove the veracity of both the concept of Sola Scriptura as well as its opposite – whether or not the Bible should be the sole source of truth and read by all.
 - **ex·e·ge·sis** - critical explanation or interpretation of a text or portion of a text, esp. of the Bible.
 - **eis·e·ge·sis** - an interpretation, esp. of Scripture, that expresses the interpreter's own ideas, bias, or the like, rather than the meaning of the text.

Sola Scriptura – Review (3 of 3)

- There are even different interpretations of Sola Scriptura, so how do we know whether we believe it or not?
 - What is important to know is what topics Sola Scriptura encompasses, and then do word & topical studies to see what Scripture says about those things, then combine those results and see how well Sola Scriptura aligns with what we've found the Word to say.



Canonicity Questions That Remained

- Rev 22:18-19 & Deut 4:2 – talking about more than just the books of Rev & Deut?
 - **Deut 4:2** has God telling Moses he is not to add to or take away from the word that God was giving him.
 - **1 Kings 22:14** stated Micaiah's (prophet's) duty "As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that I will speak". A prophet's job was to be the mouthpiece of God, His voice to men.
 - **Prov 30:5-6** "Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar."
 - **Jer 26:2** God tells the prophet that when he is speaking in the court of the Lord's house to all of the cities of Judah that have come to worship – he is not to omit a word that the Lord commanded him. Throughout Scripture it is defined for us that prophets were not to omit anything (or add to anything) they were told
 - The OT authors were all prophets, as were NT authors (apostles were equated with prophets **2 Cor 12:1-4**, **Gal 1:1,12**, **Eph 3:3**, **Heb 1:2**, **2 Pet 1:19**, **Rev 22:9**, and more). Thus their writings were prophetic and as such were to be treated as prophecies

Canonicity Questions That Remained

- Sometimes the OT gives what the human author said and the NT quotes the statement as what God said. Other times this is reversed, with the OT stating “God says/said” and the NT quoting the passage as what the human author says. Thus, what the author says and what God says are used interchangeably, as shown below from Geisler & Nix “A General Introduction to the Bible” pg 51

GOD SAYS ...	SCRIPTURE SAYS ...
Gen. 12:3 Ex. 9:16	Gal. 3:8 Rom. 9:17
SCRIPTURE SAYS ...	GOD SAYS ...
Gen. 2:24 Ps. 2:1 Ps. 2:7 Ps. 16:10 Ps. 95:7 Ps. 97:7 Ps. 104:4 Isa. 55:3	Matt. 19:4-5 Acts 4:24-25 Heb. 1:5 Acts 13:35 Heb. 3:7 Heb. 1:6 Heb. 1:7 Acts 13:34

- Several other arguments are presented, but I do not consider them the strongest just because it seems like they assume an already existing canon, or are easily questioned as circular reasoning.

Canonicity Questions That Remained

- Clarification on the 40 lines, 11 lines bit...
 - Source was “The Formation of the English Bible” by Steven Cavness (TMS)
www.justthesimpletruth.com which cites Geisler & Nix “A General Introduction to the Bible”. Several pages containing relevant info (pgs 474-475 significant)

Canonicity Questions That Remained

- **The canonicity of unknown-authored book of Hebrews**
 - Ch 14 of Harris' book "Inspiration and Canonicity of the Scriptures: An Exegetical and Historical Study" is titled "Books of Questioned Authorship" – AND HAS ALL WE NEED ON THIS TOPIC!
 - Paul "wrote" Romans, authorship undenied, yet 16:22 states "I Tertius, who wrote this epistle"
 - Peter's authorship is uncontested, yet 1 Pet 5:12 states Silas was the penman
 - Some of the apostle's used an Amanuensis – not just a stenographer but also research assistant and companion in the faith
 - Mark was strongly connected to Peter, and Luke to Paul, so that covers Mark, Luke, and Acts – in Acts there are all sorts of "we sections"
 - Peter & Paul used amanuenses, summary statement of material – Paul either wrote Hebrews with an amanuensis, or it was written & then translated by Luke.
 - MANY early church documents refer to Hebrews as being from Paul – VERY EARLY church documents (guys like Origen 185-254AD, etc.)
 - Some of these stated that Paul may not have wanted to claim that he was an apostle to the Hebrews since he was to the Gentiles, as well as the fact that the Lord was sent to the Hebrews...
 - Heb 10:30 & Rom 12:19 depart from the Septuagint wording in the same way
 - Near same Hab 2:4 quote in Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Heb 10:38 (& Hebrews quote longer than other two)
 - But even still, Origen's often used quote remains, "Who wrote the epistle, in truth, only God knows."

Scripture On Itself

- Perfect/Inerrant
- Complete
- Sufficient
- Authoritative
- Powerful

Sola Scriptura: Perfect/Inerrant

- Scripture is pure (**Ps 12:6, 19:8, 119:140**)
 - **12:6** The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.
- Has not lost smallest stroke or letter (**Matt 5:18**)
 - Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- It IS truth (**Ps 19:9, 119:142,151,160, John 17:17**)
- Altogether righteous (**Ps 19:9, 199:172**)
- Eternal/everlasting/enduring forever (**Ps 19:9, 119:160, Matt 5:18**)
- 100% God breathed (**2 Tim 3:16**)

Sola Scriptura: Perfect/Inerrant

- Every word is tested (tried and found to be true, without error, **Prov 30:5,6**)
 - Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.
- Consistent, divinely inspired (**1 Cor 2:13** what they were taught by the Spirit, **2 Pet 3:15** the wisdom given Paul, **Jude 1:3** “handed down to”)
- The psalmist compared the level of perfection in everything against God’s Word, stating that the wisdom of God’s Word has no limits (**Ps 119:96**)
- So, like we talked about the first day (Peter, John Mark, Paul all huge sinners and clearly way imperfect) the authors were clearly human and nowhere near perfect, but the Word is, because of:
 - **2 Pet 1:20-21** “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

Sola Scriptura: Complete

- Though Scripture says that it is complete (Rev 22:18-19, Jude 1:3, numerous OT passages) this is ground that we much more thoroughly covered both
 1. Last week during the talk on canonicity when we covered the close of the canon (*see notes*)
 2. On slides 5 & 6 when we answered the question regarding passages like Rev 22:18-19, Deut 4:2, etc. and whether or not they refer just to that writing or to Scripture as a whole.

Sola Scriptura: Sufficient

- **Josh 1:8** instructs us to meditate on Scripture day and night, being careful to do all that is written in it
- No small book, no small task!
 - This wouldn't be practical if others' writings (early church fathers, pastors, etc.) were to be treated equally due to the vast volume
 - There are so many writings on each Scripture...why? Because it is living and active and hits each person uniquely.
- Keeping the Word of God is a full time job that we can never complete – we just have to keep at it, getting better all the time
 - **Ezra 7:9-10** "...the good hand of his God *was* upon him, for Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel."
 - **Ps 1:2** "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."
 - **John 14:15** has Christ telling Philip (and us) that we are to keep His commandments, and **21-23** that if we love Him we will keep His commandments
 - **James 1:25 & Rev 1:3** make the statement that those who keep the law of liberty will be blessed
 - **Col 3:16** tells us that the word of Christ should richly dwell within us, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in our hearts to God.

Sola Scriptura: Sufficient

- Between all of the above this leaves not only no room for anything else, but no need for anything else. In this sense God's word is sufficient.
- Scripture also gives us such an elevated view of Scripture that there is no desire for anything else
 - **Job 23:12** "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."
 - **Ps 19:10** "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."
 - "than much fine gold", **Ps 119:72** – thousands of gold and silver pieces
- Scripture is sufficient for what we need to save us
 - **Gal 3:23-24** "But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith."
 - And how does faith come? **Rom 10:14-17** by hearing the Word of God
 - This ties in with Sola Fide – saved by faith alone, not works
- Scripture is more than sufficient for our daily lives and the only source of wisdom, as well as the source of what we need to know for salvation by faith.

Sola Scriptura: Authoritative

- Before we get into the authority of Scripture, let's look at a passage that reminds us of the authority & supremacy of God in general **Job 38:1:11** (but really Job 38-41)
- The psalmist tells us (**119:4**) that God ordained His precepts, that we should keep them diligently.
 - Twice in 119 that he trembles at God's Word
- **Isa 55:9** "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. "
- **Prob 14:12** "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."
- It isn't difficult for us to admit that we can not always trust our own sense of what seems right
 - Sometimes what seems right is right, but that's because God has written the law in our hearts and given us consciences (though our consciences can be trained toward good or bad). We can not even understand our own heart, let alone the hearts of others
- We need to give God's holy word the proper elevated authority in our lives for so many reasons!

Sola Scriptura: Authoritative

- **John 1:1-3,14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
 - A very powerful passage, using the Word as another name for Christ
 - The Word was in the beginning with God, was God, all things were created through the Word...
 - If Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth as the Father gave Him, what about Scripture? If He is the Word, we should respect/love/obey/fear the Word as we respect/love/obey/fear Him
- **2 Cor 10:3-5** “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God”
 - God’s holy word is so powerful and authoritative that everything should be raised up to it (and its divinely powerful to destroy even fortresses). Paul leaves no question as to his view of the authority of Scripture
- **1 Th 2:13** “For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.”
 - The divinely appointed authority of Scripture – the Word of God Himself.
 - No the paper, ink, or binding, just the words, the meaning – the message is what has authority, not the physical book.

Sola Scriptura: Powerful

- Fitting beginning to set the tone **Job 38:12-41**
 - This passage (**Job 38-41**) is, in the literal sense **awesome** (a word which has become greatly desensitized thanks to pop culture)
 - God’s power is supreme, far above any power in the universe, which is His creation, after all
- 7 ways the power of God’s Word is manifested...
 1. Discern & Destroy
 - **Heb 4:12** – used to discern and judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart
 - **Jer 23:29** – like fire and hammer that smashes and destroys false teachings
 - **2 Cor 10:3-6** – used to judge everything and destroy it and discipline disobedience
 2. Develop
 - **2 Tim 3:16-17** – God’s Word is powerful enough to equip us for every good work, so we would be made adequate by Him
 3. Design
 - **Heb 11:3** – Used to create creation, make the visible from the invisible
 4. Decide
 - **Mat 7:24-27** ““Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall.”
 - Used to determine what your eternal fate is going to be (did you hear and obey, or did you hear and disobey?)
 - **Heb 5:14, Rom 12:2, Phil 4:8-9, Ps 119:9-11**

Sola Scriptura: Powerful

5. Defend

- **Mat 4:1-11** – It was all that Jesus used to effectively resist Satan. If Christ knew Scripture and used only it, how much more should we endeavor to attain proficiency of the highest possible level?

6. Delight

- **Josh 1:8** – make us prosperous and successful
- **Ps 19:11** – give us great reward
- **Ps 119:9** – keep our way pure
- **Ps 119:98-100** – makes us wiser than our enemies, the aged, and our teachers
- **Ps 119:165** – grants us great peace and protects us from stumbling

7. Deliver

- **Ps 119:41** – enlightens us as to the way of salvation
- **Rom 10:9-17** – The Word of God is what saves because it is where saving faith in Christ comes from
- **James 1:21** – it is able to save our souls
- **1 Pet 1:23** – We are born again through the living and enduring Word of God

- So, the power of God's Word is most importantly and significantly evident in its ability to deliver people from eternal damnation, but is also manifest in its ability to delight our souls, defend us against Satan, decide our eternal fate, design the universe, develop us as men and women of God, and discern false teachings and the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Concluding Exhortation

- Chuck Swindoll once commented, in regards to the importance of knowing doctrine, systematic theology, what we really believe:
 - Most of the time doctrine is not hammered out at a desk but rather forged in a fight.
- More often than not what drives us to really dig deep, test & understand our faith comes from others who don't believe as we do.
- Compare how often we've heard the following excuses when somebody loses a game
 - I haven't been playing that long
 - I haven't played in a long time
 - I need to sit down and read more about this game
- Are we sitting on the sidelines, or are we actively engaged in the spiritual warfare, sharing our faith & the hope we have in Christ?
- **2 Tim 4** – can we say that we're ready in season and out of season? If we were to stand before the Lord now would we have Paul's confidence in making statements like, "I've fought the fight, I've finished the course, I've kept the faith"?